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From the Mind of Sha'i ben-Tekoa

Transcript

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Shalom laYehudim, Shalom laBnai Noach, Shalom laGoyim. It is the evening of the 2nd day, *kaf-zion beMar Heshvan, Parashas Toldos, tav-shin-ayin-zion*, the evening of the 1st day, Sunday, 27 November 2016, webcasting from Israel scourged again by the sons of Ishmael.

How so many of them hate us. They remain, the most primitive of the Arabs here, stuck in the 7th century who see in Jews supernatural, superhuman embodiments of evil. All their sorrows in life are their fault. They see us living so much better than they do and experience this is as so unfair. It is wrong and the Jews are at fault. They stole the land of Palestine. They see us with horns and tails and fangs and claws. There is no shortage of anti-Jew caricatures in the Arab media; Jews as giant spiders squatting over the globe. These are images that were in the Nazi press, and when one looks at the medieval paintings in Europe, there too Jews were portrayed as hideous creatures.

So no one should be surprised that they have done what they have done. Over 500 Jewish families, thousands of Jews, are homeless tonight. The government has assumed responsibility for them and no bureaucratic regulation will be allowed to stand in the way of taking care of them.

Imagine all your possessions, valuables, clothing, heirlooms, all burnt to ashes. You now have no home. You now have no favorite possessions. You do not have your clothes, only the clothes on your back. It is a kind of internal expulsion of Jews.

Expelling Jewish communities was routine for centuries in Europe and in the Arab world. There were major expulsions and even many more minor ones. Jews were often turned into homeless refugees with maybe a cart and a donkey for some most

important items; their lives reduced to that as they are driven from one place to another.

This is the equivalent of a medieval expulsion of Jews, I think. There are few wounded, mostly smoke inhalation, but the 500-plus homes were completely wiped out. The value of the property destroyed in these conflagrations is in the billions. It is really like the cost of a military operation. and we have had so many of those in 68 years. The Yom Kippur War lasted 19 days and up in smoke went an entire annual GNP.

Two years ago, Iron Dome missiles were defending us, each launch costing 100,000 dollars.

This is the price we pay for our freedom, I guess. On the one hand, we mourn and sink into self-pity, asking, “When is it going to end? What is the solution?”

Well, I don’t think there is a solution and I could also make the case that the price we pay is tolerable. Because the Jews invented, so to speak, the idea of a messiah, we keep whining about the endless violence, but this is what it takes to have one’s own state. Many times since the birth of the American Republic in 1788, American armed forces have fought somewhere. And Israel too must defend its freedom in every generation and pay a price for that, in fallen soldiers, civilians and material things.

If there is any benefit to be extracted from what we have just been through, destruction of so much material wealth in structures and 8,000 acres of forest planted by Jewish hands over the last century incinerated, may it be the deepening of wisdom in Israel, in the people, that leads them to a more realistic assessment of who these Arabs are and how we are to relate to them, these Arabs west of the Jordan River, and that may come by learning to speak up for our rights and destroy the claims of the enemy.

To do that, though, would make of Israel the ultimate pariah state. Every enlightened nation in the world just knows the “Palestinians” have been and continue to be Israel’s victims, so for Israel to stand up to that viewpoint, Israel has to accept being “a people that dwells alone” and that is not easy for secular Israelis.

Indeed, we are the children of Avraham who metaphorically stood on the other side of the river of history. In his day, the whole world saw and believed in thousands of supernatural powers, vs. Avraham who stood up to the conventional wisdom and said, “No. There is only one G-d.”

So today, Israel must not shy away from standing opposite the entire world and its encircling consensus over the situation here and insist that this is our land as of right, legally and morally, and the claim of “Palestinian” rights is a lie.

Not that Israel could rely on help for such a policy from those who call themselves Jews in America, many of them who are not. Too many of them even

become enemies of Israel. I label the State Department's Jewboys enemies as they all see themselves as disciples of such as James "F the Jews" Baker.

Last Friday, we learned that Dov Zakheim has stuck his nose into Israel's defense program for the second time in trying to prevent us from buying new submarines because, like any machine, they wear out, like the ones we have. But Zakheim sees in this Israel sucking at the teat of the American taxpayer because their foreign aid is being used to purchase the new subs, which he is convinced Israel doesn't need.

This is the second in his life and in my life he has aggressed against Israel's defense establishment. Thirty years ago, he was working in the Department of Defense when he put the kibosh on the Lavie project, Israel's drive to manufacture its own warplane for its own use and sale to other countries. The father of the project was Moshe Arens, by training an aeronautical engineer, and reputedly a world class one, but there was Dov Zakheim turning his thumbs down when American approval for the project was needed, with Moshe Arens bitter over it to this day, for sure. And again, Zakheim is, I believe, an observant Jew, opening his mouth in an effort to throw a monkey wrench into Israel's defense posture in the matter of these submarines. Is he not also an enemy of the State of Israel, this Diaspora Jew?

This is why I take seriously the central Christian charge against the Jews: betrayal of one of their own, and I doubt there is any other people on earth with so many members hostile to this people's central identity which in the case of Jews is religious, like it or not.

Once or twice a week, I see Haaretz the newspaper, the hard copy, and scan it open-mouthed in amazement at the hostility to the democratically-elected government of the people. Think of Hillary Clinton dismissing all those who supported her opponent as "deplorables" suffering from an irrational fear of Muslims and irrational criticism of sodomy and lesbianism.

That's Haaretz these days. And that's Dov Zakheim out once again to gore the State of Israel.

But then, there are those who are less obvious in their hostility. I am thinking of the non-Orthodox in our time who, despite all the evidence that their community is dying, nonetheless demand recognition of their "stream" of Judaism, their theory and practice of Judaism which they say is as valid as any other stream – and never mind evidence showing it is killing off the Jewish people.

Then there are the intellectuals, the academics and artists who wave the banner of secularism as their way of being Jewish. All of a sudden, today, there were three announcements in the newspapers for three major conferences of prominent opinionators. One will take place this week at the National Library hosting the "Second Gathering of the Global Forum," two days of panel discussions and schmoozing and

the topic will be: “The Fate of Secularism: The Sacred and the Profane, Confrontation, Collaboration and Mutual Influence.” Now there’s a mouthful of pretentious claptrap.

These are largely self-declared, secular Jews, and never mind the illogic, the internal contradiction of this oxymoronic expression: a secular Jew.

Secularism, says the OED, the Oxford English Dictionary, the Bible of the English language, means against religion, when the word Jew derives from the Hebrew verb “to thank” and refers back to the naming by the Matriarch Leah of her fourth son Yehuda. Three times before she had given birth to sons, and each time expressed the hope that her husband would love her more. But not the fourth time. This time she just thanked G-d for him.

So, a secular Jew is a person to who is a G-d-thanking opponent of religion. A G-d-thanking Jew is an expression that makes no sense.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Now here is a second newspaper announcement for another roundtable discussion sponsored by, in this case, the Jerusalem Post and the Israel Democracy Institute. We saw that The National Library gabfest is for Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, and this one is for the next day Thursday, with some of the same opinionators. This one is called, “Who is a Jew? Reevaluating the Boundaries of Jewish Identity.” Sounds heavy.

There will different panel discussions on Jewish identity; for example, its “influence on Israeli culture.” Another one is “Methods for Becoming a Member of the Jewish people”; another will be “Attitudes Toward Mixed Marriages.”

It is as if these otherwise intelligent, sophisticated people don’t understand that you don’t have to re-evaluate the “boundaries of Jewish identity” or the “different methods of becoming a member of the Jewish people.” They seem never to have heard of the *halakchos*, the laws of the Jewish people that have dealt with these questions for thousands of years. And it is settled law that there is only one way, the classical, so-called, Orthodox conversion.

It is as if these contemporary intellectuals of Jewish extraction never read the books of Ezra and Nehemiah and their confrontation with mixed marriage, and this was thousands of years ago.

Jewish identity comes with birth to a Jewish mother or via a proper conversion, so what is there to “re-evaluate the boundaries of Jewish identity?” I don’t understand.

What is going on, of course, why all these gabfests, is the awareness that Jews in the Diaspora are disappearing into the great mass of gentiles, meaning other nations, and these secular Jews, these intellectuals, these novelists, artists etc. want to believe it is possible to have a Jewish identity that is not a reflection of the mitzvot, of the essential religious identity of this people.

Hence, the oxymoronic idea of the “secular Jew,” the Jew who wants to have his cake and eat it too. He may love and admire the Jewish people and bask in their accomplishments when they shine, but don’t expect them to live Jewish lives.

Sort of like the hermaphroditic Bruce Jenner and Hillary Clinton: these “secular Jews” want to be simultaneously Jewish and non-Jewish, unbound, unrestricted by Jewish strictures.

On Friday, the Jerusalem Post gave op-ed space to a female Reform rabbi who does not herself perform mixed marriages but refuses to criticize the practice. Her policy is that after the marriage, one must be “inclusive” and accept into the community the non-Jewish spouse.

Not surprisingly, this young woman said, “In an era of hyper individualism, few choose to live as Jews simply in order to belong to the tribe.”

Alarm bells should go off in your head when you hear the word “tribe” to describe the Jewish nation. Reform Jews like her have no idea of the antisemitism buried in the word “tribe” used this way. It is a variation of the theme of sneering at Jews for being cliquish and clannish, and not inclusive in the Jewish national identity. That is dismissed as tribal, primitive, irrational.

This so-called Reform rabbi does not know that the 12 Tribes of Israel came together as a nation at Mt. Sinai. It broke up in civil war, but remains a nation that is no longer tribal. If Jewish identity were tribal, there would be no conversion process for tribal usually means consanguine, of the same blood, as in blood feud; when conversion has nothing to do with blood.

This poor woman went on to admit that, “At Hebrew Union College, where I have the privilege of teaching a significant share of the American students who are training to become Reform rabbis, cantors and educators who are not fully, ethnically Jewish (converts, children of converts, or children of mixed marriages.)

What? The Reform have rabbis in training who are not Jews even by Reform standards? And that is so, I guess, because the community is shrinking toward the vanishing point. They are looking for new customers to come to their school. Their own, in-house demographer Steven Cohen has shown in his studies a match with the recent, 2013 Pew survey of the Jews in America who are disappearing.

Hence, there will be a third such event next week in Ra’anana where JPost editor Yaakov Katz will interview Alan Dershowitz on the topic, “The Case for the Soul of Israel.”

What does Alan Dershowitz know of Israel’s soul when he has never lived here?

Like too many Jews in America who stopped living Jewish lives, as Dershowitz did in his teens, Israel has become their religion, their fetish object, their totem – only, they want to remain accepted inside the Beltway so that they love Israel but criticize it for not

handing Judea and Samaria over to the Muslims, to Hamas, for that is who would take over when Israel leaves, as Dershowitz wants Israel to.

There is a crisis there, no doubt. American Jewry has drifted so far from the classical Jewish lifestyle, they have so re-formed their notion of what it means to be a Jew, their notion is no longer recognizably Jewish.

Indeed, they become enemies of Jewishness. Like Greenblatt of the ADL. He respects J Street, these obviously off-the-rails, Jew-hating Jews.

One can only hope the powers that be in Jerusalem recognize that the future in America will be different for Israel because the generations that produced AJ Committee and AJ Congress and Bnai Brith and the ADL are all dying off as surely as Christians are dying off in Europe.

So here in Israel these week there will symposia on Jewish identity in which I am confident no one will take the side of *Halacha*, the legal system of the Jews that has kept them alive for thousands of years.

* * (Musical Interlude) * *

Yes, the Christians are dying off in Europe. The Clarion Project reported last week that in the German town of North Dortmund, the Woolworth store will be not carrying Christmas decorations, cards and the like. They received a consignment but sent it on to other branches because the town is now two-thirds Muslim. These are the gatecrashers starting in 2015 from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Also, the excellent Judith Bergman on the Gatestone website reported on the politically correct vocabulary now in use in Europe. Sweden has a National Coordinator Against Violent Extremism, and this is the language in use in the MSM as well when writing up a crime committed not by a Muslim but a “violent extremist,” otherwise unidentified.

And isn't this what Obama did, this Muslim advance man for the invasion of the US by Muslims?

This is right out of Orwell's *1984*. “War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength,” the perversion of language to mask the truth. Obama issued a fatwa that no one in his administration must link Islam with terrorism.

In Europe today, the MSM, according to Bergman, sees the terrorist as a poor traumatized victim who needs help. Some 30,000 Muslims in Europe are believed to have made their way (and back) to Syria and Iraq in order fight with ISIS or against ISIS, with Sunnis or Shiites, or Alawites. And when they return to Europe they are burnished by the experience of killing. That is why they go to the Middle East. Not because they are believers in much; they just want to kill and shoot off noisy machine guns. They love the sound of machine guns discharging.

There is something suicidal going on in Europe these days. If AIDS is the destruction of the human immune system, so there seems to be a parallel spiritual AIDS at work that inhibits the normal human reflex for self-preservation, surely the most powerful drive in a human being. The things people have done in order to survive are simply amazing. Only here in post-Christian Europe, I am afraid, is it infected with a spiritual AIDS that prevents them from defending themselves. Worse, as with Angela Merkel in Germany, they take active steps to inject into Germany an alien culture bent on destroying Germany from within.

Also out of degenerate Europe last week we learned of the French requiring all goods from the Golan and Judea and Samaria to be so marked in French stores, which is a way of denying our right to the spoils of war in 1967, and why? Because they want to hurt us for not attending their kangaroo court next month, which may not come off anyway. They may also believe the Muslims within France will like them more for attacking us Jews.

But I think the first explanation is sufficient. The French have a record of anti-Jewish behavior going back centuries and this is just more of the same.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry responded to the news by pointing out the existence of some 200 land disputes around the globe about which France says nothing. Is this not antisemitism? And are the French so thick in their inability to recognize their own antisemitism? And I think the answer is, "Yes."

* * (Musical Interlude) * *